

1. A dental shade lamp for visually comparing a dental shade to a natural tooth, said shade lamp comprising:
  - a housing;
  - an aperture formed in said housing, said aperture permitting an unobstructed view through said housing; and
  - a light source coupled to said housing for emitting light from said housing and illuminating the dental shade and natural tooth thereby permitting an accurate visual comparison through said aperture between the dental shade and natural tooth.
2. The dental shade lamp of claim 1 wherein said housing is generally rectangular in shape having a top and bottom wall, two end walls, and two side walls, said aperture formed through said side walls.
3. The dental shade lamp of claim 1 wherein said aperture is generally rectangular in shape having a pair of opposed longer sides and a pair of shorter sides.
4. The dental shade lamp of claim 3 wherein said light source further comprises a light positioned adjacent each of said opposed longer sides of said aperture.
5. The dental shade lamp of claim 1 wherein said light source further comprises at least one fluorescent light bulb.

6. The dental shade lamp of claim 1 wherein said light source extends along at least a portion of said aperture.
7. The dental shade lamp of claim 1 wherein said light source is adapted to emit light having a color temperature between about 5,000 K and about 6,500 K.
8. The dental shade lamp of claim 1 wherein said light source is adapted to emit light at a color temperature of greater than about 6,000 K.
9. The dental shade of claim 1 wherein said light source is adapted to emit light having an illuminance intensity of between about 50 foot-candles and about 150 foot-candles.
10. The dental shade lamp of claim 1 wherein said light source is adapted to emit light having an illuminance intensity of greater than about 75 foot-candles.
11. The dental shade lamp of claim 1 further comprising a power source carried by said housing, said power source adapted to operate said light source.
12. The dental shade lamp of claim 11 wherein said power source comprises at least one battery.

13. The dental shade lamp of claim 1 wherein said housing further comprises a handle for permitting hand held operation by a user.

14. The dental shade lamp of claim 1 further comprising a magnifying glass coupled to said housing and positioned such that visualization through said aperture also takes place through said magnifying glass.

15. A hand-held dental shade lamp for visually comparing a dental shade to a natural tooth, said shade lamp comprising:

    a housing having a top and bottom wall, two end walls, and two side walls;

5           a handle extending from said bottom wall;

    an aperture through said housing having first and second opposed sides, said aperture permitting an unobstructed view through said housing; and

    first and second light bulbs, said first light bulb positioned adjacent said first opposed side and said second light bulb positioned adjacent said

10          second opposed side for illuminating the dental shade and natural tooth thereby permitting an accurate visual comparison between the dental shade and natural tooth through said aperture.

16. The dental shade lamp of claim 15 wherein said housing is generally rectangular in shape.

17. The dental shade lamp of claim 15 wherein said aperture is generally rectangular in shape.

18. The dental shade lamp of claim 15 wherein said first and second light bulbs further comprise first and second fluorescent light bulbs.

19. The dental shade lamp of claim 15 wherein said first and second light bulbs are adapted to emit light having a color temperature of between about 5,000 K and about 6,500 K.

20. The dental shade lamp of claim 15 wherein said first and second light bulbs are adapted to emit light at a color temperature of greater than about 6,000 K.

21. The dental shade of claim 15 wherein said first and second light bulbs are adapted to emit light having an illuminance intensity of between about 50 foot-candles and about 150 foot-candles.

22. The dental shade lamp of claim 15 wherein said first and second light bulbs are adapted to emit light having an illuminance intensity of greater than about 75 foot-candles.

23. The dental shade lamp of claim 15 further comprising a power source carried by said housing, said power source adapted to operate said first and second light bulbs.

24. The dental shade lamp of claim 23 wherein said power source comprises at least one battery.

25. The dental shade lamp of claim 15 further comprising a magnifying glass coupled to said housing and positioned such that visualization through said aperture also takes place through said magnifying glass.

26. A method for visually comparing a dental shade to a natural tooth comprising:

placing a dental shade adjacent a natural tooth;

illuminating the dental shade and natural tooth using artificial light

5 having a color temperature of greater than about 6,000 K; and

viewing the dental shade and natural tooth to make an accurate

comparison between the dental shade and natural tooth.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein illuminating the dental shade and natural tooth further comprises illuminating the dental shade and natural tooth using light having a color temperature of approximately 6,500 K.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein using light having a color temperature of approximately 6,500 K further comprises using fluorescent light having a color temperature of approximately 6,500 K.

29. The method of claim 26 wherein illuminating the dental shade and natural tooth further comprises illuminating the dental shade and natural tooth using light having an illuminance intensity between about 50 foot-candles and about 150 foot-candles.